Import of raw sugar

3644. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Fund have suggested to Government to allow import of raw sugar;

(b) if so, what are the main points of suggestions;

(c) whether import of raw sugar could be processed into white sugar and help improve capacity utilisation of sugar factories and boost exports;

(d) if so, whether Government have examined these suggestions; and

(e) by when these are likely to be accepted and if not, what are the reasons for non-acceptance of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (e) Import of raw sugar for export of white sugar has been permitted as per norms at S. No. 35 in the product group of "Food Products" of Hand Book of Procedures April 1992—March 1997 (Vol. II) amended upto 30th March, 1994. The same norms are reproduced below:

S.No.	Item of Export	Qty.	Item of Import.	Qty.
35	White Sugar	1 Kg.	Raw Sugar	1.05 Kg.

Note:—Export of White Sugar against import of Raw sugar shall be subject to the following conditions.

1. A minimum value addition of 7.5% has to be achieved.

2. Export of White Sugar shall be permitted only after import of raw sugar.

3. Export of White Sugar must be completed within a period of 3 months from the date of import of raw sugar.

4. Only Quantity Based Advance Licence shall be issued.

5. The applications shall be entertained only by the Office of DGFT, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi.

Export of Basmati rice

3645. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately taken certain steps to boost up exports of basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the target of export of rice for the current years and how far it is likely to be achieved with the help of these measures, indicating the exports made during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAI-